The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

- 1. (Withdrawn) A method of treating and protecting the skin of a human patient having skin with high exogenous surfactant concentration, wherein the surfactant is a fatty acid sulfate, with the exception of sodium dodecyl sulfate, a betaine, an alkylbenzene sulphonate, a fatty acid ether sulfate, an alkylpolyglycoside, or a salt thereof where such salt exists, comprising
- a) administering, for a time sufficient to eliminate said high surfactant concentration, a composition comprising at least one compound of the formulae Ia or Ib

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 & R^3 \\
 & (C-R^4)_n \\
 & R^2 \\
 & H
\end{array}$$

$$R^{1}$$
 $R^{2}$ 
 $R^{1}$ 
 $R^{2}$ 
 $R^{2}$ 
 $R^{2}$ 

or a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is H or alkyl,

R<sup>2</sup> is H, COOH, COO-alkyl or CO-NH-R<sup>5</sup>,

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are in each case independently of one another H or OH,

n is 1, 2 or 3,

alkyl is an alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

R<sup>5</sup> is H, alkyl, or an amino acid radical, dipeptide radical or tripeptide radical and

b) thereafter continuing to administer the composition to protect the skin from said high surfactant concentration.

# 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method of protecting the skin of a human patient from high exogenous surfactant concentration, comprising:

administering, to a patient whose skin is in need of protection from high surfactant concentration, a composition comprising at least one compound of the formulae Ia or Ib

or a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is H or alkyl,

R<sup>2</sup> is H, COOH, COO-alkyl or CO-NH-R<sup>5</sup>,

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are in each case independently of one another H or OH,

n is 1, 2 or 3,

alkyl is an alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

R<sup>5</sup> is H, alkyl, or an amino acid radical, dipeptide radical or tripeptide radical, wherein the composition does not contain said exogenous surfactant and wherein said exogenous surfactant is not sodium dodecylsulfate.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin of the human patient is protected from stress caused by said exogenous surfactant or wherein said stress is prevented.

# 5. (Cancelled)

- 6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the skin of the human patient is protected from stress caused by said exogenous surfactant or wherein said stress is prevented.
- 7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, benzalkonium chloride, sodium laurylsulfate, ammonium laurylsulfate, or cocodimethylbetaine, or a salt thereof where such salt exists.
- 8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, or benzalkonium chloride or a salt thereof where such salt exists.
- 9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4, wherein the proteins and/or biomembranes in the human skin or the microflora of the skin are protected from said stress.

### 10. (Cancelled)

- 11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the proteins and/or biomembranes in the human skin or the microflora of the skin are protected from said stress.
- 12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4, wherein the skin barrier is stabilized from said stress.

# 13. (Cancelled)

- 14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the skin barrier is stabilized from said stress.
- 15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a cosmetic composition that is an external application formulation in the form

of a solution, a suspension, an emulsion, a paste, an ointment, a gel, a cream, a lotion, a powder, a soap, a surfactant-containing cleansing preparation, an oil, a lipstick, a lipcare stick, a mascara, an eyeliner, an eyeshadow, a blusher, a powder, an emulsion or wax foundation, a sunscreen, a presun or aftersun preparation or a spray.

- 16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the compound of formulae Ia or Ib, a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof, is from 0.0001 to 50% by weight, based on the total cosmetic formulation.
- 17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is (S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid or (S,S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid.
- 18. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, benzalkonium chloride, sodium laurylsulfate, ammonium laurylsulfate, or cocodimethylbetaine, or a salt thereof where such salt exists.
- 19. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the surfactant is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, cocoamidopropylbetaine, alkylpolyglucosides, or benzalkonium chloride or a salt thereof where such salt exists.
- 20. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the composition is a cosmetic composition that is an external application formulation in the form of a solution, a suspension, an emulsion, a paste, an ointment, a gel, a cream, a lotion, a powder, a soap, a surfactant-containing cleansing preparation, an oil, a lipstick, a lipcare stick, a mascara, an eyeliner, an eyeshadow, a blusher, a powder, an emulsion or wax foundation, a sunscreen, a presun or aftersun preparation or a spray.
- 21. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the proportion of the compound of formulae Ia or Ib, a physiologically compatible salt thereof, or a stereoisomeric form thereof, is from 0.0001 to 50% by weight, based on the total cosmetic formulation.

22. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein said compound is (S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid or (S,S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid.